



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 2 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
2 FEBRUARY 1968

1. South Vietnam
(as of 5:00 AM
EST)

Pockets of Communist forces are still holding out within or on the outskirts of key cities in each of the four corps areas.

Saigon was relatively calm last night. Early this morning, however, the Viet Cong overran two police precinct stations, and there was sporadic firing in other parts of the city. In the northern half of the country, Communists still have strong positions in Hue, Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, and Dalat. Sharp fighting is continuing in several cities of the delta area; a US Navy base was temporarily overrun at Vinh Long.

The situation around Khe Sanh has remained unusually quiet since the outbreak of the current offensive.

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Aerial reconnaissance of the Khe Sanh area shows a major enemy effort to dig trenches and bunkers ever nearer the Marine Base.

2. Korea

Pyongyang has not yet made any public comment on yesterday's talk at Panmunjom. North Korean air and naval activity, with the exception of air patrols over Wonsan and a tight naval patrol along the lower east coast, now consists of routine training missions. Military activity along the Demilitarized Zone is at a low level.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Iran - Saudi Arabia

The dispute between Iran and the Arabian American Oil Company (operating from Saudi Arabia) over drilling rights in the Persian Gulf took a nasty turn yesterday. The Iranians boarded an ARAMCO drilling rig within the Saudi zone and took off ten Americans and sixty Saudis.

The Shah has apparently ordered the release of these people, but the barge may wind up in Iranian hands.

This gunboat diplomacy will set back chances for meaningful Saudi-Iranian cooperation in the gulf area. Right after the incident the Shah cancelled his planned visit to Saudi Arabia.

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5. Greece

The junta, jumpy over reports of antigovernment activity abroad, claims to have evidence that the King is plotting against it. An emissary is said to be en route to Rome to warn Constantine against such activity. We have no evidence that the King is up to anything.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] An Ankara broadcast yesterday noted that the Turkish President had returned on Wednesday from a trip, but that his foreign minister had continued on to "West Germany."

6. Denmark

Radical Liberal Party leader Hilmar Baunsgaard [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has put together a three-party coalition government. There is no indication how the three parties resolved their differences over NATO. The Radical Liberals have plugged for a referendum on Denmark's participation, while the other partners are strong supporters of the alliance.

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The new government will be greeted by rising public pressure for redefinition of US treaty rights in Greenland.

7. Venezuela

The word is going around Caracas that Communist terrorists will try to kidnap the visiting commander of US Army Forces Southern Command, Major General Johnson. US military have been kidnaped twice before in Venezuela, but this time the police claim to be on top of things and are throwing extra security around the General.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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Peking Exports Cultural Revolution: Peking has once again tread on Hanoi's sensitivities by trying to foist off Cultural Revolution claptrap. On Tuesday, Peking broadcast a news story about Vietnamese citizens who were frustrated in their desire to study Mao's teaching. According to the broadcast, there were no Vietnamese translations of Mao's works and Chinese experts in Vietnam were

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forced to help spread the word. The news item also described eager Vietnamese begging Peking to print and circulate more copies of Mao's quotations.

While the North Vietnamese have been cautious on what they say in public about China's Cultural Revolution, they want no part of it. Last spring the theoretical journal Hoc Tap carried an article implicitly suggesting the Chinese go elsewhere with their revolution. This was apparently not enough to deter Peking permanently. Recent repatriates from North Vietnam confirm that Chinese efforts along this line are a continuing source of friction between Peking and Hanoi.

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North Vietnam's Industrial Crop Production: An editorial in the 24 January Nhan Dan urged cadre and peasants in agricultural cooperatives to increase industrial crop production during the winter-spring growing season. (Examples of North Vietnamese industrial crops are cotton, jute, and soybeans.) The goal of planting nine percent of total cultivated acreage to industrial crops has not been met, the editorial said, and in fact there had been a "downward trend" in the past two years in total industrial crop acreage. The editorial added that leading cadre and peasants in some areas wrongly held the idea that the only aim of wartime agriculture was to provide food for the army and people, resulting in a preference for grain crops and "negligence in growing industrial crops."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing of significance to report.

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